

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. - 1 Peter 2:2

THE SINCERE MILK OF GOD'S WORD

The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword... - Hebrews 4:12

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What Has God Said?

Pleasing God requires distinguishing between “wisdom” of the world and the wisdom that comes from God. Any time man’s wisdom conflicts with God’s, we must ask “what has *God* said?” He is always right, and *His Word* is the authoritative truth we will be judged by (cf. **John 17:17**; **Rom. 12:2**).

An example of this principle is seen when considering the subject of gender. Though man has created much confusion about this subject, God is not the source of such confusion. His teaching about gender is clear.

When Jesus was asked a question about divorce in **Matthew 19**, He responded by going back to God’s original design of gender and marriage. Notice **verses 4-5**: *[Jesus] answered, “Haven’t you read that He who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh?’*

God created exactly *two* genders. They are “*male and female*” (**Gen. 1:27**). He created the two with intentional differences, and did not leave it up to any individual to decide what gender he or she is.

God did not create either the male or the female to be superior in importance to the other. However, He did not create them to be *identical*. Instead, His design is for the two to perfectly *complement* one another. The uniqueness of man and woman make them suitable for each other (**Gen. 2:20-22**).

This leads into a second subject that exemplifies the need to ask what *God* has

said. That is the subject of homosexual conduct.

Shortly after creating the first man and woman, God instituted the marriage covenant (cf. **Gen. 2:23-24**). His design then and now is for a *man* and *woman* to be joined in wedlock. Never does God authorize same-sex “marriage.”

Given this truth, homosexual conduct is sex outside of God-approved marriage. It is therefore a form of fornication, which is sinful (**Gal. 5:19-21**).

Multiple New Testament passages *directly* condemn this type of fornication.

For instance, **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** says, “*Or don’t you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God’s kingdom? Don’t be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor extortionists, will inherit God’s kingdom*” (also see **Rom. 1:26-27** & **1 Tim. 1:10**).

These verses leave zero doubt that homosexual conduct is sinful. This truth may be unpopular, but that does not make it less true.

One thing God requires to be forgiven of any sin, including homosexual conduct, is repentance. Repentance involves turning in the opposite direction of sin.

Though some may claim that homosexual behavior cannot be turned away from, *God* says otherwise.

Notice the words “*such were some of you*” in **1 Corinthians 6:11**. These words follow a list of sins that includes homosexual conduct. Those in a same-sex “marriage” can (and must) leave that relationship to be right with

God. Those practicing homosexual conduct can (and must) cease that behavior to be right with God. Homosexual conduct may ever be a greater *temptation* for some than others, but being tempted to sin is not the same as *yielding* to temptation (**Heb. 4:15**).

God's teaching about gender and homosexual conduct closely connects to a third subject that well exemplifies our need to ask what *God* has said. That is the subject of roles in marriage.

The complementary nature of man and woman is not by accident. God's design is such that marriage works beautifully when the husband and wife accept the roles *He* has given.

God's design includes the instruction given to wives in **Ephesians 5:22-23**: *Wives, be in subjection unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, being Himself the Savior of the body.*

It includes the instruction given to husbands in **Ephesians 5:25**: *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself up for it;*

God's design is for the husband to be the chief provider of the family and for the wife to be the primary homemaker (**Titus 2:5**).

These truths are unpopular in a society that insists married couples should decide for themselves what roles they'd like to fill. We must remember, though, that what is popular often conflicts with what is true (cf. **Matt. 7:13-14**). God's Word does not degrade women. Rather, His Word demonstrates the wisdom of our Creator in designing a relationship that works beautifully when both parties accept their unique roles.

A fourth subject that exemplifies the need to ask what *God* has said instead of conforming to worldly wisdom is marriage's permanency.

As homosexual "marriages" exemplify, God does not approve of all that the world defines as marriage (cf. **Mark 6:17-18**). Those marriages He *does* approve of though are intended by God to be for life.

In the **Matthew 19** passage, Jesus followed up His reference to **Genesis 2** by saying, "*So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder*" (**verse 6**). Shortly after this, Jesus said, "*Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery*" (**verse 9**).

Though man may teach that if one grows tired of his or her spouse, he or she can leave the marriage and look for another mate, it is clear from these verses that God teaches something far different.

The words "*committeth adultery*" in **verse 9** show that divorce and remarriage that does not meet the exception the Lord gives creates a "marriage" in the eyes of the world that is *adultery* in the eyes of God. Like those in same-sex "marriages," those in an adulterous "marriage" must leave that relationship for repentance to take place. This is perhaps as unpopular as any biblical teaching, but that does not make it less true (also see **Mark 10:11-12**).

These four subjects just scratch the surface of the principle this article centers on.

They exemplify, though, the need for us to allow God's Word to shape our thinking and conduct, even when (and especially when) His Word contradicts the "wisdom" promoted by many in the time and place we live.

With *any* subject God has spoken about, it is crucial to ask, "What has *God* said?"

- **Michael Hickox**

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www.thesinceremilkofgodsword.com

For questions, comments, or to request a Bible study, please contact MichaelDHickox@gmail.com